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PATENT
Customer No. 22,852
Attorney Docket No. 4208.0112

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

Toshiyasu ITO et al.

Application No.: 09/869,784 ✓

Filed: October 16, 2001

For: CARD CONNECTOR

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) Group Art Unit: 2833
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) Examiner: F. O. Figueroa
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Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(d)

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.56 and 1.97(d), applicants bring to the attention of the Examiner the documents listed on the attached PTO 1449. This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed after a Final Action and is accompanied by a fee of \$180.00 as specified under § 1.17(p) and a certification as specified under § 1.97(e). Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner consider the listed documents and indicate that they were considered by making appropriate notations on the attached form.

Each document listed in this Information Disclosure Statement was first cited in the European Search Report for corresponding European Patent Application No. 00971781.0, and this Information Disclosure Statement is being filed within three months of the mailing date of that communication.

Copies of the listed documents, including any copending patent applications, are attached. In lieu of a statement of relevance or translation of the non-English document, German Patent No. DE 3937383 A1, an English language version of the search report from the European Patent Office in corresponding European Patent Application No. 00971781.0 citing this document and setting forth its relevance thereof is enclosed.

This submission does not represent that a search has been made or that no better art exists and does not constitute an admission that each or all of the listed documents are material or constitute "prior art." If the Examiner applies any of the documents as prior art against any claims in the application and applicants determine that the cited documents do not constitute "prior art" under United States law, applicants reserve the right to present to the Office the relevant facts and law regarding the appropriate status of such documents.

Applicants further reserve the right to take appropriate action to establish the patentability of the disclosed invention over the listed documents, should one or more of the documents be applied against the claims of the present application.

If there any additional fees due in connection with the filing of this Statement, please charge the fee to our Deposit Account No. 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

FINNEGAN, HENDERSON, FARABOW,
GARRETT & DUNNER, L.L.P.

Dated: April 16, 2004

By: 

Ernest F. Chapman
Reg. No. 25,961

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATION

Atty. Docket No.	4208.0112	Appln. No.	09/869,784
Applicant	Toshiyasu ITO et al.		
Filing Date	October 16, 2001	Group:	2833

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initial*	Document Number	Issue Date	Name	Class	Sub Class	Filing Date If Appropriate
	5,716,221	2/10/1998	Kantner			
	5,876,218	3/2/1999	Liebenow et al.			

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

Document Number	Publication Date	Country	Class	Sub Class	Translation Yes or No
DE3937383A1	6/7/1990	Germany			No
EP0936705A2	8/18/1999	EPO			
EP0939582A2	9/1/1999	EPO			

OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)

	EPO Search Report dated March 1, 2004, for European Patent Application No. 00971781.0.
	English Abstract for Japanese Publication No. 08055661, dated Feb. 27, 1996, Application No. 06219371, application date Aug. 10, 1994, for inventor Yoshikawa Takamasa, Title: Card Connecting Adaptor.

Examiner	Date Considered
*Examiner: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.	
Form PTO 1449	Patent and Trademark Office - U.S. Department of Commerce